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PATENT
PW DKT NO. 021286/27 8719

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:)	Examiner:	NYA
)		
Nobuaki Takahashi, et al.)	Art Unit:	NYA
)		
Serial No.: 09/811,367)		
)		
Filed: March 16, 2001)		
)		
Title: SOLUBLE MAST CELL)		
FUNCTION ASSOCIATED)		
ANTIGEN (MAFA) PHARM-)		
ACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS)		
AND METHODS OF MAKING)		
AND USING THEM)		

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the specification as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, line 1, please insert --This application claims priority to Provisional Application Serial No. 60/190,716, filed March 17, 2000.--

Remarks

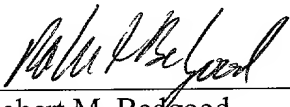
The amendment to the specification was made to reference the priority application, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.78. The amendment therefore does not add new matter and entry

thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Date: 5-23-01

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**MAST CELL FUNCTION ASSOCIATED ANTIGEN (MAFA) PHARMACEUTICAL
COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS OF MAKING AND USING THEM TECHNICAL
FIELD**

5 This application claims priority to Provisional Application Serial No. 60/190,716,
filed March 17, 2000.

This invention generally pertains to the fields of cell biology, immunology and
medicine. In particular, this invention provides pharmaceutical compositions and methods for
controlling and modifying Natural Killer (NK) cell and T cell functions by manipulation of
“mast cell function-associated antigen,” or “MAFA,” polypeptide-mediated cell signaling and
ligand binding.

BACKGROUND

Current approaches to immune therapy for cancer and infectious diseases are
limited. Several biological mechanisms may account for the inability to achieve adequate
immune protection. It has been postulated that the inhibition of the cytotoxic function of anti-
tumor cells, such as NK cells or T cells, by their target cells (e.g., tumor cells) may play a role in
this inability. The discovery of new methods and pharmaceuticals capable of allowing the body
to bypass or to block this target (tumor)-cell mediated immune inhibition would provide an
important new ways to treat cancer and other diseases and conditions.

20 In contrast, activation of NK cell or T cell cytotoxic function can be a major
obstacle to the success of allogenic transplantations, including graft and organ transplants.
Activation of these cells may have a pathological role in autoimmune diseases as well. Thus, the
discovery of new methods and pharmaceuticals to negatively regulate the cytolytic activity of
NK or T cells would provide important means to ameliorate or block these unwanted responses
by the immune system.

25 “Mast cell function-associated antigen,” or “MAFA,” was originally identified
using a monoclonal antibody that inhibited rat mast cell activation in the presence of IgE. Cross-
linking of cell surface MAFA inhibited IgE-stimulated mast cell degranulation (see, e.g., Ortega
(1988) J. Immunol. 141:4324-4332). Cloning of the rat MAFA gene identified a type II
membrane glycoprotein expressed on the surface of basophilic mast cells (see, e.g., Guthmann

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Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I certify that the foregoing document is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Dated: May 24, 2001



Danielle J. Moten

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